Teamsters Local Union 705

chartered as

Truck Drivers, Oil Drivers, Filling Station and Platform Workers Local Union No. 705

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, AFL-CIO

1645 WEST JACKSON BLVD • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60612 • Phone: (312) 738-2800 ® 101

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"Resolution Against the War"

Whereas, we value the lives of our sons and daughters, of our brothers and sisters more than Bush's control of Middle East oil profits;

Whereas, we have no quarrel with the ordinary working-class men, women, and children of Iraq who will suffer the most in any war;

Whereas, the billions of dollars being spent to stage and execute this invasion, means billions taken away from our schools, hospitals, housing, and social security;

Whereas, Bush's drive for war serves as a cover and a distraction for the sinking economy, corporate corruption, lay-offs, Taft-Hartley (used against the locked out ILWU longshoremen);

Whereas, Teamsters Local 705 is known far and wide as fighters for justice;

Be it Resolved that Teamsters Local 705 stands firmly against Bush's drive for war;

Further Resolved that the Teamsters Local 705 Executive Board publicize this statement, and seek out other unions, labor and community activists interested in promoting anti-war activity in the labor movement and community.

Note: This resolution was passed overwhelmingly by the membership in attendance at the October 2002 Teamsters 705 membership meeting.

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Teamsters Local 705 – 1645 West Jackson Blvd Chicago, IL 60612

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAJOR TEAMSTER LOCAL REJECTS BUSH WAR PLANS

PURSUE TERRORISTS, STAY OUT OF IRAQ, MEMBERS SAY

Teamster Local 705, the 2nd largest Teamster local in the country, and the largest truck driver and warehouse local in the country, overwhelmingly voted for a "no war in Iraq' resolution at its Sunday, October 20, 2002 general membership meeting.

Nearly 400 members attended the meeting, and the resolution passed with only one dissenting vote. Members whose fathers served in the Viet Nam conflict, and Teamsters who are Marine and Army veterans all urged support of the resolution, stating that Bush Administration officials' constantly shifting reasons for war against Iraq had failed to make their case.

Local 705 Secretary-Treasurer Gerald Zero said "The members of Local 705 are the bedrock of the Teamsters. They are truck drivers in the freight, cartage and package delivery industry, heavy equipment operators in rail yards and municipal governments and loaders and unloaders. They are blue-collar, working class Americans. Politicians should pay very close attention to this vote."

Zero added that "Too often, news reports on this issue imply that opponents of the war are just elitists and crazy so-called leftists. This vote shows that average Americans have deep concerns about the direction George Bush is taking on this issue."

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CT: NOV. 15 2002

Group created to lobby against Hussein

By Eric Schmitt
New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON—Seeking to increase domestic and international support for a new government in Iraq, an independent bipartisan group has been formed with the White House's tacit approval to press for the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

Members of the hawkish group, the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq, include former Secretary of State George Shultz, former Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.), Teamsters union leader James Hoffa and the former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.). Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) are expected to be the group's honorary congressional co-chairmen.

The committee is modeled on a successful lobbying campaign to expand the NATO alliance and will engage in advocacy and educational efforts in the United States and Europe aimed at "freeing the Iraqi people from tyranny," the group's mission statement says.

On Friday, members are scheduled to meet at the White House with Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's national security adviser, to encourage a long-term American commitment to developing democratic institutions in Iraq after Hussein's regime is either toppled by a coup or removed by an American-led military offensive.

"We don't believe in hit-and-run interventionism," said Bruce Jackson, the Reagan-era Pentagon official who is the committee's chairman.

Operating from an office near Capitol Hill on less than $25,000 in seed money from Jackson and Julie Finley, an influential Republican fundraiser, the committee plans to borrow many of the same low-budget methods used in the NATO enlargement campaign to spread its message.

Those will include making contact with journalists, holding dinner sessions with senior administration officials and meeting with editorial boards across the country.

With UN weapons inspectors expected to arrive soon in Iraq, committee organizers say they fear public support for removing Hussein and rebuilding Iraq's political and economic institutions could slip without steady pressure.

"Support is never as deep as you'd like it," said Randy Scheunemann, the group's president and a former aide to Republican Sens. Bob Dole of Kansas and Trent Lott of Mississippi. "We're looking at getting outside of Washington, from Spokane to Wichita."

Scheunemann said committee members would also give the administration a "gut check" on its Iraq policies, especially on evolving a plan for governing a post-Hussein Iraq.

Some committee members were openly critical of the administration's handling of the disparate Iraqi opposition groups. "I am disappointed we haven't done more with the opposition groups earlier, not just militarily but politically," said Wayne Downing, a retired Army general who was until recently the president's principal adviser on terrorism.

Kerrey, who is president of the New School University in Manhattan, said ousting Hussein would benefit Iraqis. "There is a moral case for this beyond just the political arguments," he said.

The U.S. strategy is described as an "inside out" approach that would first isolate and capture Baghdad, knocking out the regime's nerve center and preventing it from using any of its weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. forces would then move into the peripheries.

Although short on details, U.S. military planners also have spoken of a blueprint for rebuilding Iraq that would quickly involve local Iraqis in the process. The assumption is that the U.S. would set up a transitional government made up of technocrats until elections could be organized but that ultimately the U.S. military would be in charge.

Estimates vary widely on how long, how expensive and how intrusive the military occupation would be. The most optimistic assessments coming out of Washington suggest a project similar to the de-Nazification of Germany and the economic and political rehabilitation of Japan after World War II.

But Arab analysts are skeptical.

"Germany and Japan were homogeneous countries with highly centralized systems that could command change," said Montasser. "Iraq is a multiethnic country already in danger of breaking apart, and if you destroy Saddam and the Baath Party, there's no central command."

U.S. occupation of Germany and Japan left those countries with sturdy democratic institutions and a deep sense of gratitude to America.

President Bush has said repeatedly that the United States would do the same in Iraq.

Unlike Afghanistan, Iraq does have some important assets—a well-educated population, a capital with a good infrastructure of roads and communications, and a lot of oil—but instant democracy is seen as wishful thinking by most experts in the region. And many ordinary Arabs deeply mistrust U.S. intentions.

"The U.S. already controls a large chunk of Iraq and in 10 years you failed to produce anything like a democracy," said Al Ahram's Said, referring to the Kurdish area of Northern Iraq that is protected by a no-fly zone.

"Bush's father liberated Kuwait. Why didn't the U.S. push for full democracy in Kuwait?" he asked.

"The Kuwaitis were so grateful they would have done anything, but 10 years after liberation, women are not allowed to vote."

Why has Hoffa joined Bush's War Drive?

While opposition to Bush's coming war with Iraq has grown in the American labor movement, one prominent union official has signed-up in support of Bush's war drive—our own General President James P. Hoffa.

Last month it was announced that Hoffa was joining the so-called "Committee for the Liberation of Iraq" which is lobbying Washington for war with Iraq. It was created with the approval of the Bush White House and is funded by prominent Republicans. Among the rogue's gallery of reactionary, anti-union figures that Hoffa will be joining in this phony 'liberation committee' will be former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Republican Senator John McCain and Democratic Senator Joe Lieberman. The committee's President is Randy Scheunemann, a former aide to Republican Senator Trent Lott, infamous for his recent statements in support of the racist Presidential campaign of Strom Thurmond in 1948.

What on earth is Hoffa thinking? Isn't it obvious by now that the 'war on terrorism' and the war drive against Iraq have been used as a cover for attacking the labor movement at home and controlling oil abroad? Isn't Bush's imposition of Taft-Hartley on the West Coast dockers, the bankrupting of United Airlines, massive tax breaks for the rich, refusal to extend unemployment benefits and $355 billion military budget a clear enough track record? What else does Hoffa need to see that the Bush administration is the most corporate controlled, anti-working class administration in modern history?

Hoffa's support for Bush's war drive is, unfortunately, only the latest in a series of blunders, missteps and disasters that his administration has presided over. Over the last year we have seen a failed strike at Overnite, a mediocre contract at UPS, the destruction of Consolidated Freightways and a string of endorsements of anti-union Republicans like New York Governor George Pataki and Michigan Rep. Pete Hoekstra. Hoffa's latest endorsement of Bush's war drive is just embarrassing for every Teamster.

Hoffa should immediately resign from the phony Committee for the Liberation of Iraq and endorse the anti-war resolution passed by Teamsters 705.

Joe Allen
705/UPS, supporter of ***Socialist Worker*** newspaper

What's behind the coming war with Iraq?

It is almost a forgone conclusion that in the next few months the United States is going to invade and occupy Iraq. Despite the steady stream of pro-war propaganda being pumped out by Bush and the media, most people feel uneasy about the coming war —and rightly so! So, what's behind the coming war with Iraq?

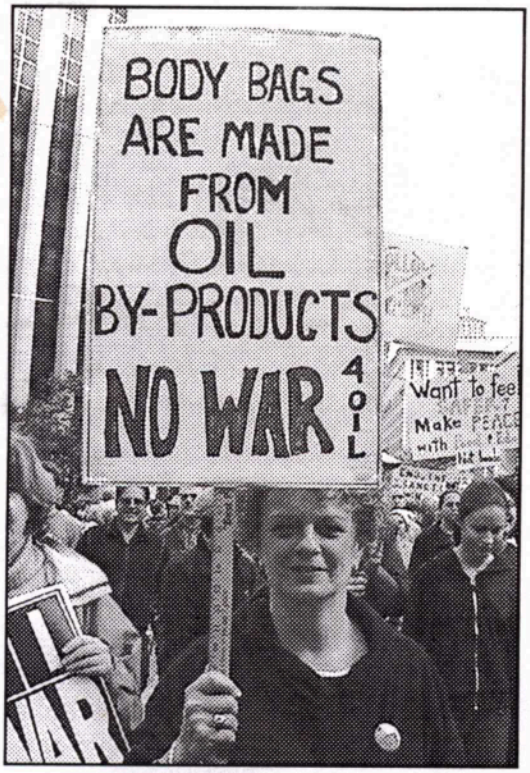
First, let's deal with the biggest propaganda point of the Bush administration. Is Saddam Hussein a threat to the people of the United States? No! During the 1990-91 Gulf War, the United States destroyed Iraq. One study described Iraq being reduced "to a pre-industrial state." The Iraqi army today is one-tenth the size that it was on the eve of the last Gulf war. Scott Ritter, a member of the last UN inspection team in Iraq, has publicly attacked the Bush administration claims. Ritter argues that 90% to 95% of Hussein's weapons of mass destruction have been destroyed. Iraq is a weak, devastated country that the US wants to launch another mass attack on. Why?

The control of Middle East oil. In 1945, the US State Department has described the Middle East oil reserves as "the greatest material prize in history." Since then the US government has ruthlessly pursued a goal of controlling Middle East oil. To that end it has overthrown democratic governments (Iran 1953), supported dictators (like Saddam Hussein) and maintained medieval monarchies (like Saudi Arabia). Iraq has the second largest oil reserves in the world and the oil-drenched administration of George Bush wants control of it.

Who will pay for this coming catastrophe? The people of Iraq and the working class people of this country. Not only did the US kill somewhere between 150,000 to 200,000 Iraqi's during the last Gulf War, but over one million more (half whom were children under 5 years old) have died since then through economic sanctions. The people of this country will also pay. How many sick and dying veterans will come home this time? Who will pay the cost of a new war? The Defense Budget alone is now an astronomical $400 billion per year, the coming war with Iraq could cost up to another $200 billion! In a country where 45 million people don't have health insurance shouldn't money be spent on human needs and not war?

Aren't you angry that we have a President that is so willing to send people to die for oil in the Gulf, but who hid from combat during the Vietnam War in the Texas Air National Guard and is bought and paid for by the oil industry? This is not our war.

Joe Allen
Don Schraffenberger
UPS/Jefferson St.
Supporters of *Socialist Worker* neswpaper



Voices against THE war

UNION ACTIVISTS AND VETERANS SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE WAR DRIVE ON IRAQ

Speakers include:

BILL DAVIS Former national coordinator of Vietnam Veterans Against the War, now chief shop steward for the International Association of Machinists at Chicago-area UPS

DAN LANE A leading activist in the mid-1990s lockout of the UPIU at A.E. Staley in Decatur, Ill., veteran of two tours of duty in Vietnam

BRENDA STOKELY President, AFSCME District Council 1707, co-convenor of New York City Labor Against the War, whose antiwar statement was signed by over 1,000 trade unionists

TRENT WILLIS Business Agent, International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 in San Francisco, recently locked out and forced to work under the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act

7PM Friday, January 10

Teamster 705 Auditorium

300 S. Ashland, Chicago, Ill.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 312-829-0962

This event is being organized by concerned Chicago labor activists and is co-sponsored by Teamsters Local 705. A complete list of speakers, endorsers and other details to follow.

First Teamster killed in Iraq

Sgt. Sherwood Baker is the first member of our union to die in Bush's war in Iraq. He was a member of Teamsters' Local 401 and the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Sherwood worked as a case worker for the Pennsylvania Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. He was killed in Iraq on April 26 and was 30 years old. Sherwood Baker left behind a wife and a nine year old son.

"My son was betrayed by the Bush administration..."

Sherwood Baker's adoptive parents Alfred and Celeste Zappala, veteran peace activists, spoke to the independent radio program Democracy Now about the death of their son and against the policies of the Bush administration on May 8. Here are some of their comments:

"It was a senseless death, just like all those other boys...and the 10,000 plus Iraqi citizens that got killed in Iraq."

"My son was betrayed by the Bush administration . This whole war—you know, people make analogies with Vietnam with Vietnam and Iraq, and I think that the big difference is that it took years to find out the lies in Vietnam. We discovered the lies in less than a year."

"He was everybody's soldier. He was everybody's son and I cannot, cannot and will not, stop trying to speak the truth and get other people to speak the truth."

UPS & Bush's War in Iraq

Bush would not have been able to launch his insane war for oil and empire in Iraq without the crucial financial backing of corporate America. Here is a list of campaign contributions from UPS to the Bush re-election campaign:

- Mike Eskew, Chairman & CEO—$2,000
- Jim Kelly, member of the Board of Directors—$1000
- UPSPAC—$10,000 to Bush re-election campaign
- $751,885 to Republican candidates to US House of Rep.
- $126,250 to Republican candidates to U.S. Senate

Bring the Troops Home Now!

Written & distributed by concerned members of Teamsters 705 at Jeff. St.